

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and members of the committee:

HB 2591 provides for 10 planning grants are a critical tool in addressing school health in Oregon. Approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of schools in Oregon have no school nursing. There is no clear data to measure districts that have inadequate nursing, such as 8 hours per week.

These grants allow districts and their communities to evaluate what approach to school health best meets the needs of their community. The district and community partners can evaluate School-Based Health Center model and School Nurse Model.

As a school nurse, I live in Benton County and work in eastern Marion County. I drive by two large districts, who when I started working in school nursing 15 years ago, had so few nurses it was very concerning. The Albany school district recently took advantage of the planning grant to assess the needs in their community, evaluate how to best meet the health needs of students and as a result has significantly increased the number of school nurses and expanded their collaboration with the community partners.

The other important aspect of these planning grants is the inclusion of community partners and community members in the needs assessment and planning process. Each district as part of their local community does a systematic review of their needs, with guidance in this process.

I encourage you to support HB 2591

Denise Cardinali RN  
School District Nurse